



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 3370.3C
OP-72

16 March 1992

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3370.3C

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: MINE WARFARE POLICY

Encl: (1) Commander, Mine Warfare Command Mission and Functions
(2) Commander, Mine Warfare Command Additional Duty As
Director Mine Warfare Division (OP-72) Mission and
Functions

1. Purpose. To set forth the mine warfare policy of the U.S. Navy and promulgate the mission and functions of the Commander, Mine Warfare Command (COMINEWARCOM). This instruction has been substantially revised and should be reviewed in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3370.3B.

3. Background. Commander, Mine Warfare Command (COMINEWARCOM) was established as a Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) fleet command ashore on 1 July 1975.

a. Mine warfare operational experience since 1975 indicates the need for COMINEWARCOM to assume an operational role in the organization, training and employment of mine warfare forces. The most significant aspect of this concept involves operational control of surface, air and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) mine countermeasures (MCM) forces.

b. A reorganization plan for mine warfare forces that has placed the surface, air, and EOD MCM forces under the operational control of COMINEWARCOM on a continuing basis except when chopped, as necessary to other operational commanders for non-MCM operational missions or for overseas deployments has been approved. Additionally, surface MCM forces will be placed under the administrative control of Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT) through COMINEWARCOM. COMINEWARCOM will coordinate with Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT) for administrative matters associated with surface MCM forces located in the CINCPACFLT Area of Responsibility (AOR).

c. The reorganization plan includes a capability, within the COMINEWARCOM subordinate command structure, for deployment of two MCM group commanders and staffs to command deploying MCM



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forces in the event of future contingencies requiring employment of MCM forces.

d. The operational and administrative control of forces in this reorganization plan is as follows:

(1) COMINELWARCOM exercises operational and administrative control for surface MCM forces.

(2) COMINELWARCOM exercises operational control of EOD MCM forces.

(3) COMINELWARCOM exercises operational control of active duty air MCM forces.

(4) Operational control of naval reserve air MCM forces shifts to COMINELWARCOM at a future date mutually agreed upon by Commander, Naval Air Reserve Force (COMNAVARESFOR) and COMINELWARCOM, subject to approval by Commander Naval Reserve Forces (COMNAVRESFOR) and CINCLANTFLT.

e. COMINELWARCOM will report to CINCLANTFLT for operational and administrative control.

f. COMINELWARCOM will continue to act as a technical advisor for mine warfare to Fleet Commanders in Chief and to the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic (SACLANT). COMINELWARCOM also will continue to report for additional duty as the Director, Mine Warfare Division (OP-72) under the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Naval Warfare) (OP-07). In this latter capacity, COMINELWARCOM will continue to maintain liaison for, and when directed, represent the CNO in matters concerning mine warfare at combined, joint, inter-service, and international conferences.

4. Discussion. Mine warfare is defined as the strategic and tactical use of sea mines and their countermeasures. Mine warfare includes all available offensive and defensive measures for laying sea mines and for protection against mines. Mine warfare operations support the broad task of establishing and maintaining control of essential sea areas. Mine warfare is divided into two distinct subdivisions, namely mining and mine countermeasures.

a. U.S. mining operations will be required to assist in maintaining sea control. Additionally, mining operations may be required to interdict the enemy sea lanes of communications (SLOCs), enemy submarine operating areas, and designated ports in order to neutralize or destroy submarines, surface combatants and merchant ships.

b. United States (U.S.) mine countermeasures operations will be required to reduce the effectiveness of, or defeat enemy mining attacks by submarines, aircraft, or surface ships. Both offensive and defensive operations against enemy minelaying agents and their supporting facilities are required to reduce the mining threat. Only by this means can a small and capable U.S. mine countermeasures force adequately cope with the anticipated enemy mine threat.

5. Action. It is COMINELWARCOM responsibility to maintain a reliable and efficient U.S. Navy capability in mine warfare. The missions and functions of COMINELWARCOM are listed in enclosure (1) and include the expanded missions and functions associated with the mine warfare forces reorganization plan.

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MISSIONS AND FUNCTIONS FOR COMMANDER MINE WARFARE COMMAND

MISSION

1. To be responsible to the CINCLANTFLT for the training, tactics, inter-operability, and readiness of CINCLANTFLT mine warfare forces. These forces are to be prepared to deploy on short notice with sufficient force levels and capabilities to support two world-wide contingencies in any theater or unified commander's area of responsibility.
2. To maintain the capability to deploy commanders and supporting staffs capable of exercising operational control of mine warfare forces during peacetime operations and in response to world-wide contingencies in any theater or unified commander's area of responsibility limited or general war.
3. To perform the duties of technical advisor for mine warfare to CINCLANTFLT, CINCPACFLT and Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe (CINCUSNAVEUR).

FUNCTIONS

1. Exercise operational control of all surface, air, and EOD forces under CINCLANTFLT.
2. When directed by CINCLANTFLT, chop designated forces and command staffs to other operational commanders for peacetime operations and world-wide contingency operations in peace, limited war or general war. In this connection, portions of assigned operational forces will be routinely chopped to CINCPACTFLT for peacetime operations.
3. Exercise administrative control of surface MCM forces under CINCLANTFLT. Coordinate with CINCPACFLT on administrative matters associated with surface MCM forces located in the CINCPACFLT AOR.
4. Exercise operational and administrative control of Commander, MCM Group 1 and Commander, MCM Group 2 under CINCLANTFLT.
5. Exercise operational and administrative control of Commander, Mobile Mine Assembly Group and subordinate forces and Commander, Mine Inspection Group and his staff under CINCLANTFLT.

Enclosure (1)

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6. Coordinate with Type Commanders, as directed by joint CINCLANTFLT/CINCPACFLT and CINCLANTFLT/COMNAVRESFOR instructions, to organize, maintain, and train mine warfare forces and staffs. To avoid redundancy and duplication of efforts, maintenance programs and activities, and maintenance related assist visits and inspections will continue to be funded and managed through currently assigned Type Commanders. Fleet to Fleet transfer of Type Commander responsibilities associated with home port changes and/or subsequent administrative shifts will be coordinated by the affected Type Commanders.

7. Plan, execute, and analyze operations to ensure maximum composite element (surface, air, EOD) MCM training at every opportunity.

8. Plan, execute, and analyze mining and MCM operations that will ensure maximum integration of mine warfare forces into fleet operations (battle group, amphibious group, fleet exercises, etc.) at every opportunity.

9. Develop operational procedures and tactics to maximize effectiveness of mine warfare forces. Coordinate with tactics development commands such as Naval Strike Warfare Center, tactical training groups (Atlantic/Pacific), and the Surface Warfare Development Group.

10. Exercise operational and administrative control, as directed, of command/support shipping utilized in mine warfare operations.

11. Provide training programs for command staff awareness, skills and readiness training in mine warfare.

12. Review reports of investigation involving mine warfare units and appeals from punitive measures resulting from such investigations.

13. Report for additional duty as principal advisory to Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet; and Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe for all matters related to Mine Warfare.

14. Prepare and maintain fleet mine warfare plans. Conduct minefield and mine countermeasures planning as required by appropriate commanders. Review, print, and distribute mining and MCM plans for operational commanders, and make recommendations for the best overall utilization of mine warfare resources.

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15. Advise and assist task force commanders (except North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)), specified commanders, and naval component commanders of unified commands on technical and tactical matters concerning mine warfare.
16. Coordinate mine warfare matters with type/operational commanders as appropriate.
17. Provide an assistant chief inspector and appropriate technical assistants to the designated chief inspector of appropriate type and operational commanders for the purpose of conducting readiness inspections of all mining and mine countermeasures forces, platforms, and support forces in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Naval Forces Europe (NAVEUR) areas to ensure operational readiness to carry out mine warfare tasks.
18. Determine support requirements for prepositioned mine stocks, including equipment, and facilities in support of planned mining operations. Coordinate with appropriate commanders, the requirements for prepositioning mine loading and delivery vehicle support equipment.
19. Exercise, in accordance with fleet plans, the inventory control management of fleet mine stocks, including distribution and maintenance, monitoring mine site readiness reports, and initiating such action as may be necessary to ensure fleet mine stocks are maintained in a serviceable Ready for Issue (RFI) status.
20. Keep the commanders in chief advised on the status of current mine inventory vs. requirements. Evaluate levels of CONUS mine stocks to ensure support of Atlantic/Pacific/NAVEUR mining plans.
21. Monitor the maintenance of prepositioned mines, afloat and ashore, on a continuous basis and make ready for use on demand.
22. Monitor personnel and material readiness within the mining material support establishment, to ensure capability to support the tasks delineated in general war plans.
23. Analyze and evaluate mine warfare exercises and operations.
24. Exercise coordination with the appropriate Systems Commands (SYSCOMS) and Laboratories regarding fleet mine warfare matters.
25. Maintain liaison with the Fleet Training Center, Charleston SC in matters of mine warfare training readiness.

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26. Recommend operational readiness standards in mine warfare areas and assist in the monitoring and the attainment of those standards.

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DUTIES OF COMMANDER MINE WARFARE COMMAND AS
DIRECTOR MINE WARFARE DIVISION (OP-72)

MISSION

To act for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Naval Warfare) OP-07 in all matters affecting Mine Warfare policy, requirements, and force levels and plans.

FUNCTIONS

1. Develop and recommend the overall policy for the conduct of mining and mine countermeasures operations and preparations therefore.
2. Develop and recommend policy designed to ensure maintenance of high standards of readiness of mine warfare units and evaluate such readiness with respect to mine warfare techniques, procedures, tactics, and doctrine.
3. Initiate timely action to develop tactics and doctrine necessary to employ new and future MCM platforms and equipment, mine weapons, equipment, and delivery vehicles.
4. Recommend mission requirements for ships, aircraft, and submarines in areas in concert with CNO equipment, systems, and base support sponsors to assist in determining those requirements necessary to maintain an effective force.
5. Maintain close liaison with the intelligence community in order to obtain the latest all source information relative to foreign mine warfare capabilities as well as tactics and employment strategy. Additionally, prepare, maintain, and disseminate intelligence estimates in support of mine warfare planning.
6. Initiate and assist in monitoring studies that may be required for the development of operational concepts, justification, mission statements, military characteristics force levels and requirements for mine warfare systems ships and aircraft.
7. Assist the warfare, platform, and research, development, testing and evaluation sponsors in preparation of the operational requirements, and scientific and technical objectives for mine warfare.

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8. Monitor research and development programs to assist in the introduction of new mine warfare developments in a timely, effective, and feasible manner based on required operational capabilities in support of mission requirements.
9. Develop and recommend peacetime and mobilization requirements, including force levels, bases, test facilities, manpower, and equipment, for ships and aircraft, to support mine warfare plans, including pre-positioned war reserve stocks.
10. Assist the directors of appropriate Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) divisions in the formulation of training plans, requirements for training equipment, and support of mine warfare training.
11. Advise CNO and Chief of Navy Personnel (CNP) on assignment of Mine Warfare Naval Officer Billet Classification (NOBC). Additional Qualification Designator (AQD) requirements for officer billets, subspeciality designator associated with mine warfare, and in matters related to the mineman rating.
12. Advise Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) on curricula requirements to provide for Mine Warfare NOBC and AQD. Monitor mine warfare training curricula to ensure currency and completeness. Monitor training to assure that operational readiness standards are attained.
13. Review and advise the warfare and platform sponsors on the adequacy and levels of logistic support plans for mine and mine countermeasures weapons systems.
14. Maintain liaison with the COMNAVRESFOR in matters concerning personnel readiness of Naval Reserve mine warfare forces.
15. Assist in formulating mine procurement objectives and fleet allocations. Advise interested parties on status of current mine inventory vs. requirements.
16. Assist in determining reliability and ensure the readiness of stockpile mines by coordinating the Inwater Reliability Evaluations (IRE), and ensuring that mine warfare readiness certification inspections are conducted.
17. Ensure the readiness of mines in inventory.
18. Maintain liaison for, and when directed, represent the CNO in matters concerning mine warfare at combined, joint, fleet, and type commander, inter-service, and international conferences. Establish and maintain close liaison with allied forces.

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19. Maintain liaison with appropriate division directors, counsel and provide guidance to other OPNAV officers and Department of Defense activities in matters related to mine warfare forces and the readiness of those forces.
20. Advise on magnetic silencing matters and other self-protection measures for all Navy ships and for merchant vessels.
21. Maintain a repository of mine warfare information, to assist other commands in the technical, operational, and planning aspects of mine warfare.
22. Provide assistance concerning the security classification of U.S. mine warfare information.
23. Recommend and provide assistance to appropriate OPNAV division directors for operating force safety as it pertains to mine warfare.